

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-14, 16-20, and 22 are all the claims pending in the application.

Submitted herewith is a further Declaration, which emphasizes the importance of satisfying all of the conditions regarding the ranges of G_1 , G_2 and δG as now claimed, by providing working examples including four new working examples (Examples 20 and 21 and Comparative Examples 8 and 9), in addition to those provided in the Declarations of August 19, 2004 and October 29, 2007.

The criticality of the lower limit of G_1 can be understood from the comparison of Example 20 and Comparative Example 8. Specifically, when G_1 is less than 1.40 mm (particularly, less than 1.00 mm), deterioration of the rubber of the belt ply tends to progress due to it being attacked by oxygen coming from the inside of the tire, which causes separation.

The criticality of the upper limit of G_1 can be understood from the comparison of Example 21 and Comparative Example 5.

The criticality of the upper limit of δG can be understood from the comparison of Example 15 and Comparative Example 6.

Since it is difficult for Applicant to provide experimental data which directly shows the criticalities of the lower and upper limits of G_2 , and the lower limit of δG , Applicant has defined these values to be limited to the ranges indicated in the Declarations, within which the desired effect of the present invention can be observed. In this regard, Applicant notes that when δG is less than the lower limit of 0.32 mm, the separation between cords tends to progress in the direction of tire circumferential direction.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the additional experimental data provided herewith is now sufficient to support the patentability of the invention as now more particularly claimed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 5, 2008